

Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay
Basin and Bay Expert Science Team
Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2009
Beaumont, TX

**Lower Neches Valley Authority Offices
7850 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas**

Meeting Minutes

BBEST Members Present:

Jack Tatum (Chair), Scott Hall (Vice Chair), Gary Graham, Richard Harrel, Rex Hunt, Roger Kelley, Matthew McBroom, Jack McCullough, David Parkhill, Sam Vaughn, and Kirk Winemiller; Fred Manhart attended as Science Advisory Committee Liaison

Copies of all the presentations made during this meeting will be available on the BBEST's website which can be found at the following location:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/eflows/sabinenechessabinelakebay.html

Call Meeting to Order and Introductions

Chairman Tatum Called the meeting to order

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The BBEST unanimously approved the minutes from the February 20, 2009 meeting.

Addendum to Reports of Interest

Chairman Tatum announced that there are now 69 reports of interest listed. They are all available for download at the following link: <http://www.sratx.org/BBEST/Library.html>

Budget Discussion

Members asked if reimbursement forms could be e-mailed or if originals were required. Members will need to submit hard copies of any form that requires a signature.

SAC Status Report

Fred Manhart, SAC Liaison to the BBEST, distributed the agenda from the March 4, 2009, SAC Meeting and gave an update on SAC activities and guidance documents.

Presentation: "Overlays to Develop Environmental Flow Recommendations in the Cypress Basin and Apply Overlays to Hydrology-based Environmental Flow Regimes"

Joe Trungale presented information about the process used to develop environmental flow regimes in the Cypress Basin and how overlays can be applied to HEFR.

Presentation: "An Inflow Pattern Approach to Estuary Evaluation"

Norman Johns presented a possible draft framework for examining inflows and salinity levels in Sabine Lake.

HEFR Workshop Report

The BBEST members who attended the workshop on February 24 discussed the workshop and the HEFR application. Dan Opdyke (TPWD) distributed a list of HEFR enhancements that he proposes to implement by mid-April.

Once final modifications are made, TPWD will distribute the revised HEFR to BBEST Chairs and workshop participants.

Geographic Extent, WAM Control Points/Gages to Use

Sam Vaughn, BBEST Member, distributed a list of six gages in the Neches River Basin and six gages in the Sabine River basin that the Selection of Gages Subcommittee had selected to use. The BBEST discussed the locations of gages and the criteria used to select them. Chairman Tatum indicated that the BBEST would be willing to exercise flexibility if their selections were inconsistent with the guidance in the SAC Geographic Scope document.

The BBEST unanimously adopted the recommended gages.

Hydrological/Modeling SOQ

Gary Graham reported that the RFQ was published by the TWDB and four SOQs were received. The subcommittee scored them based on elements from the RFQ and recommends contracting with Freese and Nichols.

The BBEST accepted the subcommittee recommendation with none opposed.

Hydrological/Modeling SOW and Contract

The BBEST discussed the draft scope of work document that was distributed in their meeting packets. Ruben Solis, TWDB, indicated that the TWDB could have a boilerplate contract ready in two weeks.

The BBEST decided that the subcommittee will continue to refine the SOW and the BBEST will consider it at the next meeting.

Ecological Information SOW

The BBEST discussed the drafted SOW and agreed that the project is largely compiling [and](#) summarizing existing work. Kirk Winemiller proposed to split the project into two contracts for both the Instream and Bay and Estuary components, \$15,000 each, and to contact universities to find graduate students to complete the work. The BBEST agreed to proceed with two ecological contracts for not to exceed \$15,000.

Dr. Winemiller will re-work both the riverine and estuary scopes of work and send them to Ruben Solis (TWDB) and Cory Horan (TCEQ). Cory Horan will contact universities and provide the BBEST with a list of those that are qualified and willing to do the work.

Public Comments

None

Next Meeting and Suggested Agenda Items

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Lower Neches Valley Authority Offices at 7850 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas.

Potential agenda items include:

- Summary of key literature sources
- Report from Trinity BBEST to increase communication between BBEST teams
- Invite USGS to talk about available existing data for gage sites
- Invite Dr. Jonathan Phillips to make a presentation on his sediment research
- Invite SAC members to present guidance documents; Dr. Frank Heitmuller present his work on fluvial geomorphology
- One hour HEFR overview

Meeting Adjourned